

REFERENCE BOOK

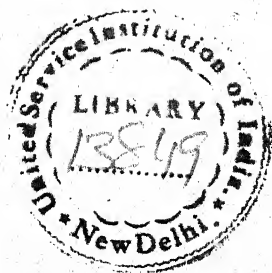
THE  
HISTORICAL RECORD  
OF THE  
2ND (OR HILL) SIKH INFANTRY,  
PUNJAB FRONTIER FORCE.

—  
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—

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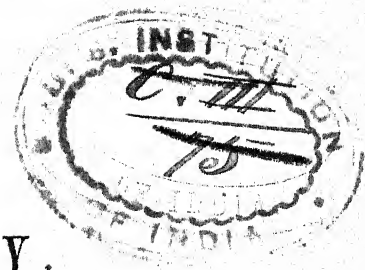
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# HISTORY

## OF THE

# 2<sup>ND</sup> SIKH INFANTRY,

## PUNJAB FRONTIER FORCE.

THE 2nd Sikh Infantry was raised at Kángra on the 22nd of December 1846, and placed under the orders of the Board of Administration for the Punjab.

1846.  
Raising the  
regiment.

The Commissioned Officers were chiefly young men selected from good families in the district of Kángra, through whose influence the men of the country were induced to enlist.

Transfers were received as under during the year 1847—

	Sub.	Jem.	Hav.	Nk.	Sepy.
From the Nusseeree Battalion (Goorkhas) ...	1	3	6	6	75
„ Almora Battalion (Goorkhas) ...	0	1	1	0	30
„ Olpherts' Battery of Artillery ...	0	1	2	2	36
„ Banda Police (late Ferris' Jezailchis)...	9	2	5	3	9

These last (transfers from the Banda Police) were mostly natives of Afghánistán and Pesháwar, and were, with the exception of three native officers, transferred to various regiments within a few months.

Accordingly the so-called 2nd Sikh Infantry was a regiment composed exclusively of Kángra Hill Dogras and of Goorkhas.

Constitution  
of regiment.

In September 1848 a jágirdár, Rám Singh of Núrpur, took arms against the British Government, and three companies of the regiment were despatched to aid in the suppression of the rebellious subject.

1848:  
Service  
against Ram  
Singh of Núr-  
pur

March to  
Dinanagar  
on service.

In October 1848 the regiment marched on service towards Dinanagar.

Disturbances  
in the Kangra  
district.

Kángra at this time was denuded of troops, and the followers of Parmode Chand, a descendant of the Rájá of Kángra, thought it a good opportunity for recovering their status in the country, lost during the possession of the country by the Sikhs. The standard of revolt was accordingly raised in the name of Rájá Parmode Chand.

The 2nd Sikh Infantry with other troops was encamped at Pathánkot when the news of the Rájá's revolt was heard of, and orders were immediately issued to detach three companies under Lieutenant Gordon in the direction of Sarjanpur, the residence of the Rájá and place of assembly for the disaffected.

The result of the expedition was the capture of the Rájá and the dispersion of his followers.

One Naick was wounded and a color taken upon this occasion.

The remaining companies proceeded to Dinanagar, and for service there received the Punjab Medal.

Stationed at  
Bhág-su.

In the end of 1848 the regiment marched from Kángra to Bhág-su, where it remained until November 1856.

Incorporated  
with Punjab  
Irregular  
Force.

In 1856 the 2nd Sikh Infantry was incorporated with the Punjab Irregular Force, and on the 6th November of that year it marched from Bhág-su for Siriband in Lower Hazára.

A few days before leaving Bhág-su (on the 1st November 1856) cholera in its most deadly form attacked the regiment and in seven days carried off no less than 50 men.

Stationed at  
Siriband.

The regiment reached Siriband on the 14th December 1856, and relieved the 1st Regiment Sikh Infantry.

Captain Hard-  
ing appointed  
Commandant.

Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien left the regiment, and was succeeded as Commandant by Captain G. W. Harding, Bombay Army.

The officers present with the regiment at this time were :

Captain G. W. Harding, 2nd Gren., Bo. N. I., Commandant.

Captain R. K. Gordon, 72nd N. I., 2nd-in-Command.

Lieutenant R. D'O. Bracken, 52nd N. I., Adjutant.

Lieutenant H. L. Bernard, 3rd N. I., Doing Duty Officer.

Government decided to abandon the military station of Siriband, and the 2nd Sikh Infantry was accordingly ordered to proceed to Abbottabad in Upper Hazára on the 14th April 1857, and it arrived there on the following day.

Stationed at  
Abbottabad.

*Troops in garrison.*

Hazára Mountain Train.

2nd Regiment Sikh Infantry.

4th Regiment Sikh Infantry.

In May decided symptoms of the mutiny of the Bengal Army were apparent, and a moveable column was formed, of which the Kumaon Battalion was part.

A wing of the Kumaon Battalion was at that time located at Murree, to relieve which three companies of the 2nd Sikh Infantry marched across the hills under command of Lieutenant Bracken.

March of  
three compa-  
nies to Murree.

On the 19th of May the 4th Sikh Infantry was withdrawn from the Hazára district, and proceeded to Delhi, leaving seven companies of the 2nd Sikh Infantry—the only Infantry—in a country never yet held by less than two regiments.

1857.

In July the regiment, leaving recruits only under Jemadár Gomundha Singh for the protection of Abbottabad, marched to Shinkíara to intercept the 55th Bengal Native Infantry, which, having mutinied at and decamped with its arms from Hoti Mardán, was attempting to make its way into Kashmír. This object was accomplished, and instead of reach-

March to  
Shinkíara to  
intercept 55th  
Bengal  
Native  
Infantry.

ing Kashmír as they wished, the presence of the 2nd Sikh Infantry drove the whole body of mutineers into the inhospitable region of Kargan and Chilas, where many met with miserable and violent deaths, and some two hundred were captured, made over to the British Government, and were tried and executed at Shinkiára, Mansehra, Abbott-abad and Haripur in the presence of the troops.

The corps returned to Abbott-abad on the 26th September.

Attack on  
Murree.

In the end of August the inhabitants of the hills in the neighbourhood of Murree attacked that station, and the three companies of the regiment under Lieutenant Bracken did good service in repulsing the enemy.

Matters were considered so serious that reinforcements were applied for, and the remainder of the regiment, under Captain Harding, proceeded across the hills to Murree.

Extract from the report of Mr. Thornton, Commissioner of Jhelum, to the Punjab Government :—

“ On Mr. Thornton’s pressing solicitation, Major Becher had despatched from Abbott-abad his company of the Satti tribe, numbering 40 men; this had joined Mr. Thornton. But on the receipt of more urgent letters, Major Becher sent, under the command of Captain Harding, accompanied by Captain Davies (a volunteer), nearly the whole of his force, leaving himself only 87 men, of whom all but 12 were recruits. The force was pushed across a most difficult country, full of morasses and defiles.

“ The Kurrahs laid an ambush to cut it off, but Providence saved it. The road on which the trap was laid became impassable from the rains. The force turned off, and not till it had passed the spot did it learn the greatness of the peril from which it had been delivered.

“ It returned to Hazára by Ráwalpindi, leaving Murree on the 14th September.”

During 1857 the following transfers were given to different regiments then newly raised :—

REGIMENT.		Subadárs.	Jemadárs.	Havildárs.	Naicks.	Buglers.	Sepoys.
12th P. I., afterwards disbanded	...	4	4	24	24	4	320
16th P. I., now the 24th P. N. I.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
19th P. I., now the 27th P. N. I.	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
20th P. I., now the 28th P. N. I.	...	...	3	3	...	...	...
Total	...	5	8	28	24	4	320

On the 26th April the regiment, under Captain Harding, marched to join the force under Major-General Cotton on the Indus, and was present at the taking and burning of the village of Sittána. It crossed and re-crossed the Indus four times.

1858.  
Sittána ex-  
pedition.

*Officers present.*

Captain G. W. Harding, Commandant.

Lieutenant R. D'O. Bracken, Adjutant.

Mr. Apothecary J. Harding.

The regiment returned to Abbott-abad on the 19th May 1858.

In June the corps marched to Jhelum, first making over the whole of its Goorkhas, some three hundred of all ranks, to a new corps, the Hazára Goorkha Regiment, then being raised at Abbott-abad.

March to  
Jhelum.

In September the regiment marched on service to Hindustán, and on arriving at Delhi orders were received to proceed to Morádabad and relieve the 1st Punjab Infantry, which was done early in November 1858.

March to  
Moradabad.



1859-60.

In January 1859 Captain Harding left for England on medical certificate, making over command to Lieutenant Bracken, who retained the same until the return of the former officer on 25th March 1860.

The corps remained at Morádabad up to the 2nd February 1861, during which time it was inspected by Brigadier-General Sir R. Walpole and Brigadier-General Milman, receiving the commendations of both these officers for its general state of efficiency.

1861.  
Inspection by  
Commander-in-Chief.

In January 1861 His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir Hugh Rose, reviewed the regiment, and was pleased to express his entire satisfaction with the same.

March to  
Kohat.

On the 2nd February the corps marched from Morádabad on return to the Punjab, and a few days after arrival at Lahore received orders to proceed to Kohát, where it arrived on the 11th April.

In April the regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain, Commanding Punjab Irregular Force.

Reduction of  
strength.

By G. G. O. No. 400 of 3rd May 1861 the strength of the regiment was reduced to the following proportion :—

No. of companies reduced from ten to eight.

Subadárs	...	...	...	...	8
Jemadárs	...	...	...	...	8
Havildárs	...	...	...	...	40
Naicks...	...	...	...	...	40
Buglers	...	...	...	...	16
Sepoys	...	...	...	...	600

During the year 1861 the only events worth recording were the great sickness that prevailed and the very large number of men who took their discharge at their own request.

The admissions into hospital between the 11th April and 31st December 1861 numbered 1,230 men ; deaths during the same period 13 ; number of men who took their discharge during the same period 70.

On the 4th February 1862 the troops in garrison at Kohát, of which the 2nd Sikh Infantry formed a portion, paraded in full dress, and were inspected and reviewed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir Hugh Rose. 1862.

The regiment was inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilde, C.B., Commanding the Corps of Guides, commencing on the 7th and ending on the 11th April, both dates inclusive. Annual inspection.

In June cholera attacked the regiment, and on the 13th instant it moved into camp, and remained, with an interval of a few days, under canvas until 9th August. Cholera outbreak.

The moving of the corps undoubtedly checked the disease, but the effects of camp life at such a season were as regards fever lamentable.

At one time there were only 72 sepoys fit for duty, exclusive of the men on outpost duty, half of whom were in hospital.

During the year the admissions into hospital were 1,213 ; deaths 22 ; discharges 72.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain on the 28th April 1863. 1863.

From the 2nd November Kohát was left in charge of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, Garrison Company of Artillery, half of No. 1 Light Field Battery, 2nd Sikhs, and a weak wing of the 4th Sikhs, and consequently, until the return of the troops from Umbeyla, the duties of the station fell very heavily on the regiment.

On the 9th November a telegram from the Staff Officer of the Punjab Irregular Force announced to the regiment that Death of Major G. W. Harding.

its Commandant, Major George Whittal Harding (who had proceeded with Brigadier-General Chamberlain to Umbeyla as orderly officer), had been killed whilst nobly performing a duty for which he had been especially selected. His loss was severely felt by all ranks, but especially by the British officers, who loved and respected him for his many noble qualities. He combined the firmness of a thorough soldier with the winning courtesy of a true gentleman.

The orderly who accompanied the late Major Harding, a newly enlisted Eusafzai Pathán, named Bostán, received the 3rd Class of the Order of Merit by the special recommendation of the Brigadier-General for gallantry on the 20th November 1863. After Major Harding's death sepoy Bostán acted as Brigadier-General Chamberlain's orderly.

The Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers voluntarily subscribed towards a tombstone to the memory of their late Commandant.

Major P. F.  
Gardiner ap-  
pointed Com-  
mandant.

On the 24th December Major P. F. Gardiner arrived and assumed command of the regiment.

During the year 1863 the sickness, &c., of the regiment was as under :—

Admissions into hospital	...	...	...	898
Deaths in hospital	...	...	...	15
Deaths out of hospital...	...	...	...	5
Discharges	...	...	...	43
Courts-Martial	...	...	...	8

1864.  
Re-organiza-  
tion.

The Bengal Army was re-organized by G. G. O. No. 161 of 24th October 1863, and the following appointments were made in the regiment by Punjab Government Order dated 20th February 1864 :—

Major P. F. Gardiner, Commandant.  
Captain R. D'O. Bracken, 2nd-in-Command.  
Lieutenant S. Beckett, Wing Officer.  
Lieutenant J. B. Slater, Adjutant.  
Lieutenant F. E. Hastings, Quartermaster.

On the 17th October 1864 the regiment marched from Kohát for Dera Gházi Khan, and on arrival there on the 12th November 1864 was ordered to proceed to Rájanpur, as a temporary arrangement, where it arrived on 21st November 1864.

March to  
Rájanpur.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Wilde, c.B., on the 12th December 1864.

Annual  
inspection.

Admissions into hospital during year	...	...	807
Deaths (in hospital 15 ; on leave 2)	...	...	17
Discharges (own request 56 ; other causes 11)	...	...	67
Transfers given (11th Bengal Cavalry 7 ; 3rd Punjab Cavalry 1)	...	...	8
Desertions	...	...	3

The Hindús of the regiment suffered severely from chest complaints during November and December, nine men dying from this cause.

The regiment marched from Rájanpur on the 7th February, arriving at Dera Gházi Khan on the 16th February 1865.

1865.  
March to Dera  
Ghazi Khan.

On the 13th February Lieutenant A. W. Graham joined the regiment as Doing Duty Officer.

Assistant Surgeon Fitzgerald joined the regiment on 16th June 1865.

During the months of July and August four men (3 Dogras, 1 Pathán) died of heat-apoplexy.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	...	541
Number of deaths	...	...	5
Discharges ... {	At own request	...	28
	Pensioned	...	32
	Quarterly Medical Committee	10	} ... 82
	Summarily	...	4
	Struck off	...	8
Deserted	...	...	1



1866.

On the 24th April Lieutenant A. W. Graham, 1st Wing Subaltern, was transferred to the 3rd Punjab Infantry as Quartermaster.

During the latter part of the year six companies were on detachment at Baháwalpur and the Rájanpur frontier, and in consequence the duty at head-quarters was very heavy.

On 31st October 1866 Lieutenant W. M. Story, General List Infantry, was appointed 1st Wing Subaltern.

On 12th October 1866 Ensign W. O. Thompson, 82nd Regiment, was appointed 2nd Wing Subaltern.

Annual inspection.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Wilde on the 18th December 1866.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	433	
Deaths in hospital	... ..	Nil	
Deaths out of hospital	... ..	3	
Discharges ...	{ At own request	... .. 26	} 47
	{ Invalided...	... .. 19	
	{ Summarily	... .. 2	

1867.

During the hot season two Pathán sepoy's were granted two days' leave from the Banduwála outpost, and never returned. It is supposed they were murdered or lost their way in the desert, and died from exposure to the hot winds; a diligent search was made, but no traces of the missing men discovered.

In October Lieutenant W. M. Story proceeded to study at the Thomason College, Roorkee.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	425	
Deaths (in hospital 3; at their homes 6)	...	9	
Discharges ...	{ At own request	... .. 12	} 27
	{ Pensioned	... .. 10	
	{ Summarily	... .. 5	
Deserted, including the two missing Patháns	...	3	



In February the regiment proceeded with the remainder of the Dera Gházi Khan garrison to take part in a Camp of Exercise under Brigadier-General Wilde, C.B., at Harrand.

1868.  
Annual  
inspection.

The strength of the regiment was augmented to 640 sepoy, or a total of 752 of all native ranks, by G. G. O. No. 1194 of 1868.

Augmentation.

On the 15th December the regiment marched from Dera Gházi Khan *en route* to Bannu in course of general relief.

March to  
Bannu.

Admissions into hospital during the year ... 444

Deaths (in hospital 6; on leave 3) ... 9

Discharges ...	{	At own request ...	...	35	}	50
		Invalided ...	...	12		
		Summarily ...	...	3		

Desertions ... .. 3

The regiment arrived at Bannu on the 4th January 1869 and relieved the 5th Punjab Infantry.

1869.

On the 7th January a Sikh sepoy of the regiment was stabbed in the abdomen by a fanatic of the Músa Khel tribe of Patháns, and died the same evening. The assassin was hanged a week afterwards on the spot where he had committed the crime.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Hughes, C.B., on the 6th March.

Annual  
inspection.

On the 15th April Lieutenant W. M. Story was struck off the regiment on appointment to the Public Works Department.

Ensign G. W. Anson, 92nd Highlanders, was appointed 2nd Wing Subaltern, on probation, by G. G. O. No. 699 of 29th June 1869.

Captain S. Beckett, Wing Officer, was appointed Assistant Political Agent at Baháwalpur by G. G. O. No. 765 of 20th July 1869.

Lieutenant J. Burne, 103rd Foot, was appointed 1st Wing Subaltern by G. G. O. No. 1193 of 2nd December 1869.

Captain H. M. Pratt, 4th Sikh Infantry, was appointed Wing Officer by G. G. O. No. 1099 of 9th November 1869.

The sickness during the latter part of the year was excessive, *viz.*—

Admissions into hospital	...	...	...	1,527
Deaths from all causes	...	...	...	14
Discharges ...	At own request	...	...	40
	Pensioned	...	...	6
	Quarterly Medical Committee	...	...	2
	Summarily	...	...	5
Desertions	...	...	...	2

1870.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Hughes, C.B., on the 24th January.

On May 13th Assistant Surgeon Wood was appointed to the officiating medical charge of the regiment.

Mahomed  
Kheyl Waziri  
outbreak.

On the 4th July the regiment proceeded on service against the Mahomed Kheyl Waziris, at this time outlaws, who had collected in the vicinity of the Kurram outpost. The regiment, in company with the artillery and cavalry of the garrison under the command of Colonel Gardiner, moved out from cantonments against the enemy, who, however, on the approach of the troops, retreated to the hills. This march was made during the great heat of the day, and in consequence the troops suffered severely.

Thirteen men of the regiment were struck down with heat-apoplexy, three of whom died. A muleteer of the regiment also died from the same cause.

During the latter half of the year, *viz.*, from June, the month when the Mahomed Kheyl Waziris broke out, the

troops were kept constantly on the alert in consequence of the raids made almost nightly by the enemy, who invariably retreated to the hills on the approach of the troops. Consequently duty both at head-quarters and at the outposts fell very heavily on the men, and continued so until September 1871, when the Mahomed Kheyls surrendered unconditionally.

Admissions into hospital during the year				1,392	Gain and loss during year.
Deaths (in hospital 11 ; on leave 4)				15	
Discharges ...	{	At own request	...	43	66
		Insane	...	1	
		Quarterly Medical Committee		7	
		Deserted	...	1	
		Pensioned	...	2	
		Summarily	...	12	
Enlisted during the year				70	

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Keyes, C.B., on 25th and 26th January 1871. 1871.

On the 24th April a skirmish occurred between the garrison of the Kurram outpost, under Subadár Lehna Singh, and the Mahomed Kheyl Wazírís. The enemy were driven back to the hills with some loss. The Subadár and one sepoy were slightly wounded. Skirmish with Mahomed Kheyl Waziris.

Subadár Lehna Singh and the detachment received the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab (*vide* Military Secretary's letter No. 1252 of 10th May 1871).

Lieutenant G. W. Anson was appointed to the personal staff of the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, by G. G. O. No. 268 of 18th March 1871.

Captain J. B. Slater rejoined from furlough to England on 3rd January 1871.

On February 20th Lieutenant-Colonel Gardiner, Commandant, proceeded on two years' furlough, and Major R. Bracken, 2nd-in-Command, was appointed Officiating Commandant by G. G. O. No. 161 of 1871.

Assistant Surgeon E. Sanders took over medical charge of the regiment from 20th June 1871, *vice* Assistant Surgeon A. Wood appointed Civil Surgeon of Azimgarh by G. G. O. No. 479 of 29th May 1871.

March to  
Kohat.

The regiment marched in course of relief to Kohát on the 18th December, arriving there on 22nd December.

Gain and loss  
statement.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	1,048	
Deaths (in hospital 18; on leave 4)	...	22	
Discharges ...	{ At own request	...	36 }
	{ Quarterly Medical Committee	6	
	{ Pensioned	...	9 }
	{ Inefficient recruits	...	18 }
	{ By Court-Martial	...	2 }
Transferred to 1st Punjab Cavalry	...	1	
Deserted	...	3	
Total	...	97	
Enlisted during the year	...	95	

1872.

On the night of the 14th January two rifles were stolen from No. 3 Section, A. Company, and no trace of the thieves could ever be discovered, although parties were sent amongst all the neighbouring tribes to make inquiries. As a punishment all leave and furlough was stopped in the regiment by order of the Brigadier-General Commanding Punjab Frontier Force.

Annual  
inspection.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Keyes, C.B., on March 6th.

Cholera  
outbreak.

On the 20th August cholera made its appearance in the regiment, and on the 27th August the regiment moved into camp at Dhoda.



The cholera was of the most virulent type, not a man attacked having recovered. On 7th October, in consequence of Assistant Surgeon Sanders's departure on sick leave, the regiment moved camp to Chumbai for the purpose of receiving medical aid from the 4th Sikh Infantry who were in camp there. On the 1st November the regiment returned to Kohát.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Keyes, C.B., on 12th December. Inspection.

The mortality and sickness during the year was greater than in any previous year, due doubtless to the large number of men present with the regiment in consequence of furlough being stopped. Gain and loss statement.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	1,550	
Deaths (in hospital 18 ; at homes 8)	...	26	
Discharges ...	{ At own request	...	13 }
	{ Quarterly Medical Committee	11	
	{ Pensioned	...	14 }
	{ Unlikely recruits	...	27 }
	{ Other causes	...	3 }
Enlisted during the year	...	84	

Colonel P. F. Gardiner returned from furlough on the 8th March 1873 and resumed command of the regiment. 1873.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	1,068	
Deaths (in hospital 11 ; on leave 3)	...	14	
Discharges ...	{ At own request	...	13 }
	{ Pensioned	...	50 }
	{ Quarterly Medical Committee	7	
	{ Under Article 5	...	4 }
Enlisted during the year	...	151	

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Keyes, C.B., on the 7th March 1874. 1874.



Lieutenant J. Burne was appointed Officiating Assistant Political Agent at Baháwalpur by G. G. O. No. 202 of 7th March 1874.

On the 26th March the head-quarters proceeded to the Miránzai Valley with the Deputy Commissioner of Kohát for the purpose of coercing the Kábul Kheyl Wazírís, who had failed to pay a fine inflicted on them. The head-quarters (401 of all ranks) returned to Kohát on the 22nd April.

On the 27th May Colonel P. F. Gardiner, Commandant, was struck off the rolls of the regiment, having been transferred to the command of the 5th Goorkhas by G. G. O. No. 488 of 11th May 1874.

Major J. J. Boswell, from 2nd-in-Command, 2nd Punjab Infantry, was appointed Commandant of the regiment by G. G. O. No. 598 of 11th June 1874.

Captain J. B. Slater was appointed Officiating 2nd-in-Command, 2nd Punjab Infantry, by G. G. O. No. 830 of 20th August 1874.

In November the regiment received half its complement of Snider rifles, the full number not being available for issue.

March to Dera  
Ismail Khan.

The regiment marched in course of relief for Dera Ismail Khan on the 15th December, arriving there on 27th December 1874.

Gain and loss  
statement.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	1,148
Deaths (in hospital 8; on leave 5)	...	13
Discharges from all causes	...	52
Transferred to pension list	...	23
Enlisted during the year	...	85

1875.

The regiment was located at Dera Ismail Khan during the year.

Annual  
inspection.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General Keyes, C.B., on 11th, 12th, and 13th January.

Captain F. E. Hastings appointed Officiating Wing Officer, 2nd Punjab Infantry, by G. G. O. No. 178 of 16th February.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Bracken appointed Officiating Commandant, 3rd Punjab Infantry, by G. G. O. No. 178 of 16th February.

Lieutenant H. B. Urmston, 1-14th Foot, appointed Officiating 2nd Wing Subaltern, on probation, by G. G. O. No. 316 of 18th March 1875.

Captain C. K. Mackinnon, 3rd Punjab Infantry, appointed Officiating 2nd-in-Command of the regiment by G. G. O. No. 368 of 8th April, remained with the regiment until 30th November, when he reverted to the 3rd Punjab Infantry.

Captain J. B. Slater returned from Officiating 2nd-in-Command, 2nd Punjab Infantry, on November 1st.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	952
Deaths (in hospital 16 ; on leave 5)	...	21
Discharges from all causes	...	29
Transferred to pension list	...	11
Enlisted during the year	...	63

Gain and loss  
statement.

Surgeon T. Robinson joined the regiment on the 8th February as Officiating Medical Officer, *vice* Surgeon Sanders, appointed to the acting charge of the 1st Punjab Cavalry.

1876

On 15th March the regiment, in company with the remainder of the Dera Ismail Khan garrison, *viz.*, No. 3 Field Battery, 3rd Punjab Cavalry and 2nd Punjab Infantry, proceeded to Zám for inspection by Brigadier-General Keyes, C.B. The Brigade returned to Cantonments on the 28th March.

Annual  
inspection.

On 17th October Captain F. E. Hastings rejoined from the 2nd Punjab Infantry, and Lieutenant H. B. Urmston reported his departure to join the 6th Punjab Infantry, to which regiment he had been permanently posted.

On 20th October the regiment marched for Delhi to take part in the Imperial Assemblage, arriving there on the 16th December.

March to  
Delhi.

Inspection by  
Commander-  
in-Chief.

On 13th November, when passing through Meean Meer, the regiment was paraded with that Brigade for inspection by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

On arrival at Delhi the regiment was posted to the 1st Infantry Brigade of the 1st Division.

On 21st December Captain J. Burne rejoined from officiating political employ at Baháwalpur.

1877.  
Imperial  
Assemblage.

The regiment took part in all the different reviews and parades held during the Imperial Assemblage, including the ceremony of the 1st January when Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen was proclaimed Empress of India.

Return march  
from Delhi.

The regiment commenced its return march to the frontier on 6th January, arriving at Dera Ismail Khan on 29th March, having marched *viâ* Ráwalpindi and Kohát, to which station the march of the regiment had been diverted on account of the disturbed state of that frontier.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Bracken rejoined the depôt of the regiment from the 3rd Punjab Infantry on 1st February.

Order of  
British India.

Subadár-Major Gomundha Singh was appointed a member of the 2nd Class of the Order of British India by G. G. O. No. 2 of 1st January.

Captain J. Burne, appointed to officiating political employ in Rájputána by G. G. O. No. 503 of 31st May, left the regiment on 27th June.

Lieutenant Plowden joined the regiment from the 6th Punjab Infantry as Officiating Wing Officer on 10th October.

The right wing under Lieutenant-Colonel Bracken marched in course of relief for Dera Gházi Khan on the 19th December.

1878.

On 12th January Surgeon Sanders rejoined from the 1st Punjab Cavalry, and Surgeon T. Robinson left the regiment accordingly.

On 16th January the head-quarters marched for Dera Gházi Khan, arriving there on 26th January. March to Dera Ghazi Khan.

The regiment was inspected by Major-General Roberts, V.C., C.B., on 27th March. After parade he addressed the Commanding Officer as follows, requesting him to acquaint the regiment with what he said :— Annual inspection.

“The regiment turns out very clean on parade. On two or three occasions I have had the pleasure of meeting the regiment, but until to-day I could not recall it to memory. I now recollect it perfectly. I then never expected to have the honor of being associated with the Punjab Frontier Force. The men are steady under arms, anxious to do their work, and have evidently been instructed by a painstaking and hard-working Adjutant. On the whole I am much pleased with the regiment. There are a few minor points which I will point out in writing.”

On the 30th March the regiment was again inspected by the Major-General in brigade attack and defence of a position.

On troops being detailed for service in Europe, the regiment volunteered its services, and was thanked by the Government of India. Volunteers for service in Europe.

Major H. M. Pratt appointed Officiating 2nd-in-Command, 5th Punjab Infantry, by G. G. O. No. 495 of 27th May 1878.

Until 24th July all furlough had been stopped in consequence of the threatening aspect of affairs in Europe on account of the Eastern Question.

On 20th August the cantonment of Dera Gházi Khan was inundated and much damage was done to the station, the lines of the three regiments being completely destroyed. The garrison was in camp on the road leading to the city, and remained there until the commencement of the Afghán Campaign. Inundation at Dera Ghazi Khan.

Lieutenant C. G. Fasken, 2-16th Foot, appointed Officiating Wing Officer by G. G. O. No. 782 of 23rd August.

Lieutenant E. C. Rothney, 63rd Foot, appointed Officiating Wing Officer by G. G. O. No. 858 of 13th September.



Ordered on  
service.

On 8th October the regiment received telegraphic orders to march for Rojhan fully equipped for field service, and marched accordingly on 10th October, reaching Rájanpur on 14th October, where it halted pending further orders.

Surgeon J. A. Nelis joined the regiment on 6th October and assumed medical charge, *vice* Surgeon Sanders, on sick leave.

Order of  
British India.

By G. G. O. No. 937 of 4th October Subadár-Major Gomundha Singh was promoted to the 1st Class of the Order of British India, with effect from 5th June 1878, and Subadár Sibsahai Singh was appointed to the 2nd Class from 10th November 1877.

Detachment to  
Bugti Dera.

On 3rd November two full companies under Captain Thompson marched to Bugti Dera to keep open the line of communications, and remained there for three weeks, when it proceeded to Dadur, where it did duty until the arrival of head-quarters on 27th January 1879.

Detachment to  
Sibi.

On 5th November a detachment of 135 of all ranks marched for Dadur under Lieutenant Plowden, and on arrival there formed the infantry portion of the force that occupied Sibi on the 22nd November, the first place in Afghán territory occupied by the British forces.

Detachment to  
Bunduwali.

On 6th November a detachment of 47 of all ranks, under the command of Jemadár Kirat Singh, proceeded to Bunduwáli.

Head-quarters  
to Mithankote.

On 11th November the head-quarters marched to Mithankote and remained there until 11th January 1879.

On 22nd November Lieutenant-Colonel Bracken joined the depôt at Dera Gházi Khan from sick leave.

On 5th December Surgeon Sanders proceeded to Bombay to appear before a Medical Board, and on 15th December Surgeon P. F. O'Connor arrived and assumed medical charge.

By G. G. O. No. 1 A. of 7th December the strength of the regiment was raised to 800 sepoys, or a total of 912.



In January Lieutenants Fasken and Rothney were both invalided to the depôt, the former from Dadur, the latter from Mithankote. Lieutenant Rothney was ultimately transferred to the 13th Bengal Native Infantry.

1879.

On 9th January the head-quarters marched from Mithankote for Quetta, where it arrived on 13th February, picking up the Bunduwáli and Dadur detachments *en route*. From Dadur the regiment escorted 17 lakhs of treasure to Quetta.

March to  
Quetta.

On 15th February a detachment of three companies under Captain Hastings, with Surgeon Nelis in medical charge, marched for Kandahár, escorting 15 lakhs of treasure. On its return march this detachment relieved a similar one of the 26th Punjab Native Infantry at Chamán, and remained there until the following August, performing most valuable service in building the present fortified post, collecting supplies for the troops and convoys constantly passing through, and in escorting convoys to and from Kandahár.

Detachment to  
Kandahar and  
Chaman.

On 1st March the detachment from Sibi under Lieutenant Plowden joined head-quarters, making the strength of the regiment on first crossing the frontier six British officers and 666 native ranks.

The head-quarters marched from Quetta on March 31st and joined the Peshin moveable column at Gulistán Kárez, remaining there until 1st May, when the column marched to Khushdil Khan at the east end of the Peshin Valley, arriving there on 4th May.

Join the  
Peshin move-  
able column.

In May and part of June the head-quarters, under Lieutenant-Colonel Boswell, escorted Captain Wylie, Assistant Political Agent, and Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Gore, R.E., on an exploring tour of the Toba plateau of the Khoja Amrán Range, which had hitherto been unexplored. During this trip a fanatic attacked the advance guard on the line of march, and severely wounded two men before he was

Escort to  
exploration  
party to Toba.

killed. One man subsequently died from his wounds, and the other had an arm amputated.

During the year the regiment furnished many detachments and escorts, the most important being as follows :—

Head-quarters under Colonel Boswell to Toba plateau.

Three companies at Chamán under Captain Hastings.

One company at Gulistán under Subadár Amír Baksh.

Two companies under Lieutenant Fasken, escorting Captain Showers, Assistant Political Agent, exploring the Kakar country.

One company under Subadár Pertáb Singh, and one under Jemadár Mad Mir, escorting railway survey parties in Gwája Pass.

Besides these many smaller escorts were furnished under Native officers ; in fact during the year the regiment was almost entirely on escort duty.

The detachment under Lieutenant Fasken, strength 102 native ranks, escorting Captain Showers, Assistant Political Agent, passed through a severe outbreak of cholera, 15 cases out of 16 seizures proving fatal.

Attacks by  
fanatics.

On two occasions fanatics attacked the camp-followers of this detachment and were themselves killed. On one occasion Subadár Gurbáj Singh greatly distinguished himself by rushing out of his tent sword in hand and attacking a fanatic who was rushing through camp sword in hand. The Subadár cut down the fanatic, receiving himself a severe scalp wound. Lieutenant-General Sir D. Stewart, K.C.B., was pleased to notify his approbation of the Subadár's conduct on this occasion.

Cholera  
outbreak.

On 12th August cholera broke out in the regiment, and on 21st idem the regiment moved into the cholera camp at Manzakai, remaining there until 15th September. During the epidemic the following cases occurred :—

Fighting men, 28 seizures ; 14 fatal.

Followers, 14 do. ; 12 do.

Surgeon O'Connor was unremitting in his attention to the sick, and to this may be attributed the large number of recoveries.

On 6th September Surgeon O'Connor left the regiment to join the 1st Punjab Cavalry, and Surgeon J. A. Nelis assumed officiating charge of the regiment, being subsequently permanently posted to the medical charge by G. G. O. No. 350 of 18th June 1880.

Lieutenant F. C. Dunlop, 39th Foot, appointed Officiating Wing Officer by G. G. O. No. 666 of 25th July, joined the depôt at Dera Gházi Khan.

On 1st October Captain Thompson was invalided to Quetta, and subsequently to Bombay, where he was granted sick leave to England.

On 15th December Subadár-Major Gomundha Singh, Sirdár Bahádur, was granted pension after a service of over 33 years with the regiment.

The regiment was located at Khushdil Khan until the 9th February, when it marched to Kandahár. 1880.

On 31st January a draft of 61 rank and file under Colonel Bracken, accompanied by Major Slater and Lieutenant Dunlop, joined from the depôt.

On 12th February at Chamán a heavy snow-storm accompanied by a gale of wind came on at night and lasted 24 hours, and men and animals suffered intensely from the cold.

The regiment reached Kandahár on 20th February, and was posted to the 2nd Brigade under Brigadier-General Hughes.

On 7th March Colonel Bracken returned to India, preparatory to retirement from the service on pension.

On 31st March the regiment marched with the 2nd Brigade towards Ghazni. Strength on leaving Kandahár :—

British Officers, 7; Native ranks, 648.

March to  
Kabul.



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*Names of British Officers.*

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Boswell.

Major J. B. Slater.

Major F. E. Hastings.

Lieutenant W. C. Plowden.

Lieutenant C. G. Fasken.

Lieutenant F. C. Dunlop.

Surgeon J. A. Nelis.

Battle of  
Ahmed Khel.

On 19th April the regiment was present at the battle of Ahmed Khel. In this action a most determined attack was made by the enemy, who came on in thousands, and a retrograde movement was ordered on the right. The regiment on the right of the 2nd Sikhs fell back, but the order was not carried out by the 2nd Sikhs, who occupied a very strong position, and simply mowed down the enemy by the fire of the Sniders, 296 dead being afterwards counted on the ground swept by their fire.

The loss of the enemy in this action was estimated by the Lieutenant-General at 1,000 men, but they afterwards acknowledged to 2,000 actually killed.

The despatches of Lieutenant-General Sir D. Stewart, K.C.B., describe this notable battle in a most vivid manner, and the following extract is descriptive of that portion of the action in which the regiment was particularly engaged.

Extract from the despatches of Lieutenant-General Sir D. M. Stewart, K.C.B., published in G. G. O. No. 326 of 4th June 1880 :—

“*Para. 14.* Taking into consideration the character of the attack, led as it was by swarms of fanatics determined to sacrifice their lives, the conduct of the troops engaged was beyond praise.

“*15.* I now desire to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and of the Government the excellent service performed on this occasion by Brigadier-Generals R. J. Hughes and C. H. Palliser, C.B., on whose brigades the brunt of the action fell.



"The resolute firmness with which the key of the position was held by the 2nd Sikh Infantry and the 3rd Goorkha Regiment under Brigadier-General Hughes' direction, when the right of the line was pushed back, is evidence of that officer's soldier-like qualifications.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I would submit, for the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the names of the following officers commanding batteries and regiments whose services have been brought prominently to notice by their respective Brigadier-Generals :—

\* \* \* \* \*

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Boswell, Commanding 2nd Sikh Infantry."

The following casualties occurred in the regiment in the battle of Ahmed Khel :—

No.	Regimental No.	Rank and names.	Company.	Nature of injury.
KILLED.				
1	3325	Sepoy Jowaya ... ..	C	Gunshot.
WOUNDED.				
1	2021	Havildár Toribáz Khan ...	B	Severe ; gunshot, leg ; since dead.
2	3038	Sepoy Bhola Singh ... ..	A	Slight ; gunshot, face
3	2518	" Amir Ali ... ..	B	Dangerous ; gunshot, abdomen.
4	3215	" Fattah Nur... ..	B	Slight ; gunshot, face.
5	3075	" Makhma Dín ... ..	C	Severe ; gunshot, ankle.
6	3288	" Kutab Dín ... ..	C	Severe ; gunshot, face.
7	3052	" Rám Singh ... ..	E	Severe ; gunshot thigh.
8	3297	" Sundar ... ..	E	Slight ; gunshot face
9	3283	" Shah Muhammad ... ..	F	Severe ; gunshot, thigh.
10	...	Muleteer Fazla ... ..	...	Slight ; gunshot, hand.



Action of  
Arzu.

On 21st April Ghazni was reached, and on the 23rd idem the 1st Brigade under Brigadier-General C. H. Palliser, C.B., to which brigade the 2nd Sikhs were attached for the day, was sent out to disperse a gathering of the enemy about six miles to the south-east of the camp.

Little was done in the morning beyond shelling the enemy, who occupied a strong position in the villages of Shatez and Arzu, with walled gardens and enclosures. About 11 A.M. Sir D. M. Stewart, K.C.B., arrived from camp with the greater part of the force left, and the enemy was driven out of his position with little loss to ourselves, whilst his loss was estimated at 400. During the whole day G. Company under Subadár Jamiat Singh acted as escort to A-B., R. H. A., and the Commanding Officer reported that "it behaved in a most exemplary manner, kept up with the guns in their advance, and by judicious fire killed many of the enemy."

During the first part of the action a company under Jemadár Pír Baksh was detached to cover the 2nd Punjab Cavalry on the right of the position, they being harassed by the enemy's sharpshooters, and Colonel Kennedy, C.B., reported that "it did most valuable service in keeping down the enemy's fire, which before the arrival of this company had wounded several men and horses."

Quartered in  
Logar Valley.

The regiment was quartered in the Logar Valley during May, June and July.

On 2nd June Lieutenant Plowden returned to India on six months' sick leave.

Garrisons the  
Bala Hissar.

On 26th July the regiment was ordered to Kábul, and was quartered in the Bala Hissar.

On 4th August Major H. M. Pratt rejoined the regiment from the 5th Punjab Infantry, with which regiment he had served from the commencement of the campaign.

The regiment was now posted to the 2nd Brigade, Kábul-Kandahár Field Force, under Brigadier-General Baker, C.B., A.-D.-C., and on 8th August marched out of the Bála Hissar with the force under Lieutenant-General Sir F. Roberts, K.C.B. C.I.E., V.C., for the relief of Khelat-i-Ghilzái and Kandahár. Strength of regiment on leaving Kábul :—

March to  
Kandahar.

British Officers, 7 ; Natives, all ranks, 612.

*List of British Officers.*

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Boswell.  
Major H. M. Pratt.  
Major J. B. Slater.  
Major F. E. Hastings.  
Lieutenant C. G. Fasken.  
Lieutenant F. C. Dunlop.  
Surgeon J. A. Nelis.

On 9th August the force commenced its march from Kábul, reaching Ghazni on the 15th instant, and Khelat-i-Ghilzái on the 23rd, where a halt of one day was made. On 31st August Kandahár was reached, a halt of one day having been made at Robat about 19 miles from Kandahár. The total distance of the march was 320 miles, which was marched in 23 days, including two days' halt.

On arrival at Kandahár, Sirdár Ayúb Khan's army was found in a strong position to the west of and commanding cantonments.

During the night of the 31st instant several shells fell into the camp of the regiment, but fortunately did no harm.

On the morning of the 1st September the force advanced in the following order to attack the enemy's position :—

Battle of  
Kandahar.

*1st Brigade on the right.*—92nd Highlanders and 2nd Goorkhas extended ; remainder of brigade in support.

*2nd Brigade on the left.*—72nd Highlanders and 2nd Sikhs extended ; remainder of brigade in support.

*3rd Brigade* in support of the whole.

Two companies of the regiment were extended at three paces interval under Majors Pratt and Hastings, and the reserve was under Major Slater. The line of direction necessitated an advance through villages and walled enclosures and gardens, all loopholed, and which had to be successively cleared of the enemy who held them in strength. A third company had to be ordered up under Lieutenant Dunlop to clear a garden held by the Afgháns on the right of the line, and this duty was satisfactorily performed.

After advancing about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in this manner the regiment arrived at a position very strongly held by the enemy, who kept up a heavy fire. A strong body of Gházis left their position, and under cover of garden walls advanced to within thirty yards of the regiment, but could not bring their charge home.

Two companies of the reserve were here ordered up under Major Slater, who was severely wounded almost immediately on coming into the fighting line, and a successful counter-attack was made on the enemy.

In this attack many individual acts of gallantry were noted by Majors Pratt and Hastings, and the following native officers and men were recommended for favourable consideration :—

Subadár-Major Gurbáj Singh.

Jemadár Ala Singh.

No. 1802, Naick Davi Singh.

„ 2210, Sepoy Jai Singh.

„ 2431 „ Pertáb Singh.

„ 2694 „ Hira Singh.

„ 2967 „ Hákim.

All these men were mentioned in despatches written by Lieutenant-General Sir F. Roberts, K.C.B., V.C., and were granted the 3rd Class of the Order of Merit by G. G. O. No. 639 19th November 1880.

On the 1st Brigade coming up on the right, the advance was again resumed and the enemy driven out of his positions. The line of direction was now changed, the left shoulders being brought forward, and the 3rd Sikhs and 2nd Biluch Regiment relieved the 72nd Highlanders and 2nd Sikhs in the fighting line.

Little more fighting occurred, and on advancing on Ayúb Khan's camp the enemy was seen in full flight.

The casualties in the regiment were as follows :—

Killed, 3 rank and file.

Wounded, 1 British Officer.

23 rank and file.

2 camp-followers

*Nominal list of killed and wounded.*

No.	Regimental No.	Rank and name.			Company.	Description of wound.	Nature of wound.	
1	2898	Sepoy	Dás	...	E	...	Gunshot, chest.	Killed.
2	3276	"	Nawáb	...	C	...	" abdomen.	
3	3384	"	Isar Singh	...	A	...	" neck.	
1	...	Major	J. B. Slater	...	...	Severe	" left shoulder.	Wounded.
2	867	Havildár	Trikkhu	...	D	Slight	" head.	
3	2210	Sepoy	Jai Singh	...	G	Severe	Twosabre-cuts, left arm.	
4	2214	"	Bahádur Singh	...	A	Slight	Gunshot, right leg.	
5	2431	"	Pertáb Singh	...	G	Severe	" right buttock.	
6	2644	"	Bhág Singh	...	A	Slight	" left leg.	
7	2694	"	Híra Singh...	...	A	"	" scalp.	
8	2785	"	Hulása	...	D	Severe	" left arm.	
9	2810	"	Jowáhir Singh	...	A	Slight	Sword-cut, left hand.	
10	2851	"	Oliar Khan...	...	F	Severe	Gunshot, ankle	
11	2926	"	Sháma	...	E	"	" right arm.	
12	2945	"	Khán Gul	...	C	Slight	" left hand.	
13	2968	"	Dasundi	...	F	Severe	" right leg.	
14	3102	"	Jiwan Singh	...	G	Slight	" right leg.	
15	3115	"	Isar Singh	...	G	"	" left buttock.	
16	3143	"	Masaddi	...	D	"	" left hand.	
17	3165	"	Gúláb	...	B	Severe	" right foot.	
18	3166	"	Nankhu	...	D	Slight	" left leg.	
19	3167	"	Hashim Ali	...	E	"	Sword-cut, head.	
20	3253	"	Ríja...	...	D	"	Gunshot, right leg.	
21	3257	"	Lehnu	...	D	"	Sabre-cut, left arm.	
22	3285	"	Mehr	...	E	Severe	Gunshot, left thigh.	
23	3340	"	Piragha	...	H	"	" left thigh.	
24	3375	"	Mohr Singh	...	H	Dangerous	" head (since dead)	
25	...	Kahar	Shiba	...	...	Slight	Contusion; spent round shot.	
26	...	"	Mahomed Baksh	...	...	"	" "	



In Lieutenant-General Sir F. Roberts' despatches published in G. G. O. No. 582 of the 12th October the following remarks are made regarding the regiment:—

"During the advance of the 1st Brigade on the village of Gandi Mullah Sáhibad, the 2nd Brigade had been threading its way through the lanes and walled enclosures which lay in the line of its attack.

"The resistance it encountered was most stubborn, the enemy being well protected by high walls, which they had carefully loopholed. The loss suffered in clearing these enclosures was necessarily severe.

"Of the regiments of this (the 2nd) Brigade the 72nd Highlanders and the 2nd Sikhs had the chief share of the fighting. They were the two leading battalions, and frequently had to fix bayonets to carry positions or to check the determined rushes of the enemy. Brigadier-General Baker speaks in high terms of the gallant behaviour of these two regiments, and notices especially the manner in which a charge of the enemy was repulsed by the 2nd Sikhs under the able and immediate command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Boswell, who was well supported by Majors H. M. Pratt, J. B. Slater and F. E. Hastings. \* \* \* \*

"After fighting both Brigades emerged at the point of the hill near Pir Paimal \* \* \* \*

"Brigadier-General T. D. Baker would wish to mention specially the names of the following officers:—

\* \* \* \*

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Boswell, Commanding the 2nd Sikhs.

"I trust I may be permitted here to record my opinion of the excellent services performed by the following regimental officers who have been with me throughout all, or the greater part of, the campaign in Afghánistán, and are still serving under my command:—

\* \* \*

*2nd Sikh Infantry.*

Major H. M. Pratt.

Major J. B. Slater.

Major F. E. Hastings."

On the evening after the action the regiment returned to Kandahár and encamped near the old cantonments, the 1st Brigade encamping on the battlefield.

Extract from the despatch of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India to His Excellency the Most Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council, dated London, the 6th January 1881, republished in the *Gazette of India* of 12th February 1881 :—

" Para. 4. The march from Kábul to Kandahár reflects the highest credit on Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Roberts and on the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and soldiers, British and Native, composing the force.

" 5. The rapidity with which the long march was, under trying circumstances, accomplished evidences the perseverance, efficiency, discipline and spirit of the troops.

" 6. Arrived at Kandahár, no time was lost. A successful reconnaissance in force was the precursor of an action resulting in the defeat and dispersion of the Afghán army and the capture of their guns, 32 in number.

" 7. The professional ability, foresight and skill displayed by Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Roberts was well seconded by the courage and perseverance of the officers and men under his command; and thus Afghánistán has again had full experience of the power, loyalty, devotion and gallantry of the Army of the Queen-Empress of India.

" 8. I have already had the gratification of informing you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer a separate medal and clasp upon the troops recently employed in Afghánistán, and also a bronze star on Sir Frederick Roberts' force in commemoration of the successful march from Kábul to Kandahár.

" 9. I have further the satisfaction of informing you that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has been graciously pleased to express her high appreciation of the services of Sir Frederick Roberts and the force under his command."

On the 15th September the regiment marched towards

72nd Highlanders.  
3rd Bengal Cavalry.  
No. 2 Mountain Train  
Battery.  
2nd Sikhs.  
5th Goorkhas.

Quetta, and on arriving at Chamán was detailed to form part of the force, as per margin, under Brigadier-General Baker, C.B., for the punishment of the Atchak-

Atchakzai  
expedition.

zais, who had been plundering convoys and giving much trouble since the Maiwand disaster.

The force marched on the 21st September, taking no tents, and rejoined the main road at Killa Abdulla on 24th idem.

No opposition was met with, but much damage was inflicted on the recusant tribes, a number of houses burned, forage seized, and about 2,000 head of cattle, sheep, goats and camels brought in.

When marching down the Arambi valley on the 23rd September, the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General diverted the advance guard from its legitimate duty, and the guide who had been given by the Political Officer was left with one sepoy, whom he succeeded in murdering.

Expedition  
against the  
Marris.

Quetta was reached on the 28th September, where orders were received detailing the regiment to form part of a brigade about to be sent on a punitive expedition against the Marris.

The Commandant of the regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Boswell, who had commanded the regiment throughout the entire campaign, was compelled by ill-health to appear before a Medical Board at Quetta, and was granted two years' sick leave to England. He made over command of the regiment to Major Pratt on 28th September.

March to Sibi.

The regiment reached Sibi on 7th October, having marched through the Bolan Pass.

Marri  
expedition.

11-9th Royal Artillery.  
2-60th Rifles.  
3rd Punjab Cavalry.  
2nd Sikhs.  
3rd Sikhs.  
4th Goorkhas.  
5th Goorkhas.

On the 10th October the regiment marched for the Marri country, with the force as per margin, under the command of Brigadier-General MacGregor, C.B., C.S.I., C.I.E.

The village of Kwát Mandai was reached on the 14th October, and on the 17th October the Brigadier-General marched with the main body *viâ* Thull for Kahan, the chief town of the Marris, leaving

the 2nd Sikhs, two guns 11-9th Royal Artillery, and a squadron 3rd Punjab Cavalry to hold Kwát Mandai and the surrounding country. The enemy never showed. The country in every direction was covered with property looted from the Railway Company and Government. One casualty occurred in the garrison, a Duffadár of the 3rd Punjab Cavalry being shot close under the hills.

The force remained at Kwát Mandai until the 1st December, when it was relieved by a force of all arms from Sibi, which place was reached by the regiment on the 4th December. The regiment started by train on 5th December and reached Mooltan on 7th idem, from whence it marched to Dera Gházi Khan, arriving on the 11th idem. The regiment originally left Dera Gházi Khan on 10th October 1878, and had therefore been on field service continuously for a period of two years two months and two days, no men having been granted the indulgence of leave during this period.

Return to Dera  
Ghazi Khan.

From the date of the departure of the regiment on service until its return the casualties in the regiment from all causes were as follows :—

Nature of casualty.	British Officers.	Native Officers	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Rank and File.	Total.
Died from all causes ...	...	2	18	143	163
Killed in action ...	...	...	2	6	8
Wounded „ ...	1	...	2	29	32
Pensioned ...	...	4	20	18	42
Discharged as unfit ...	...	...	...	46	46
Do. by court-martial ...	...	...	...	2	2
Do. summarily ...	...	...	...	1	1
Do. illegally absent ...	...	...	...	10	10
Deserted ...	...	...	...	1	1
Total ...	1	6	42	256	305

In addition to the above six British officers, two Native



officers and 140 rank and file were granted leave on medical certificate and returned to India.

Furlough to the extent of one-third of the strength was granted on arrival at Dera Gházi Khan, and the first batch started for their homes on 25th December. In addition, temporary leave in moderation was granted, and the men much appreciated the liberality of Government in this matter.

Honors and  
rewards.

For their services in Afghánistán, Lieutenant-Colonel Boswell was appointed a Companion of the Bath, and Majors Pratt and Hastings were promoted to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcies.

Owing to the flood in 1878 there were only lines for one regiment at Dera Gházi Khan, so the 2nd and 3rd Sikhs shared the lines between them.

This arrangement would have been inconvenient had not so many men been away on leave.

On the return of the regiment to India all recruiting was stopped until all supernumeraries should be absorbed, the regiment being ordered to revert to its original strength of 640 sepoy instead of 800.

Extract from G. O. C. C. of 7th April 1881, being Lieutenant-General Sir F. Haines' farewell order to the Army on relinquishing the Command in India :—

" Para. 4. Sir Donald Stewart's march from Kandahár to Kábul, and his brilliant battle at Ahmed Khel, and Sir Frederick Roberts' march from Kábul to Kandahár, and his equally brilliant battle there, were trials successfully overcome, of which any General and any troops might well be proud."

Honorary  
distinctions.

Extract from the *Gazette of India*, dated 30th July 1881.

" No. 418.—The Most Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council announces that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India has been graciously pleased to permit the following corps to bear upon their

standards, colors or appointments the words specified below, in commemoration of their gallant conduct during the recent campaigns in Afghánistán :—

\*                      \*                      \*

2nd Sikh Infantry.—‘Ahmed Khel;’ ‘Kandahár, 1880;’ ‘Afghánistán, 1878-80.’” 1880.

On 16th February Captain Thompson rejoined from furlough to England. 1881.

On 21st March a detachment of 205 rank and file under Captain Thompson marched for Tánk in company with a party of equal strength of the 3rd Sikhs and 100 sabres of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry for the purpose of forming the garrison of the outposts of the Dera Ismail Khan frontier during the Wazíri Expedition.

The detachment reached Tánk on the 4th April, and on the following day two parties each of 50 rank and file under a native officer marched to the Girni and Kote Kirghit outposts, where they remained until the termination of the expedition. The remainder of the detachment, with about 50 of the 3rd Sikhs and 60 sabres of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry, forming the garrison of Tánk, Captain Thompson being appointed Commandant of Tánk.

During the absence of the field force the duty was excessively heavy, the men being on almost daily convoy duty, escorting supplies towards the front, as well as having to furnish strong guards over the large commissariat supplies collected at Tánk.

On the 21st May, having been relieved on the return of the field force, the detachment marched for Dera Ismail Khan reaching there the next morning, and on the 25th May embarked on board the steamer *Chenab* for conveyance to Dera Gházi Khan.

Lieutenant G. W. B. Swiney, 72nd Highlanders, appointed Officiating Wing Subaltern, on probation, by G. G. O. No. 140 of 11th March 1881.

Lieutenant R. G. Egerton, 1-17th Foot, appointed Officiating Wing Officer, on probation, by G. G. O. No. 507 of 16th September 1881.

March to  
Kohat.

The regiment marched from Dera Gházi Khan on the 14th November 1881 in course of relief for Kohat, arriving there on the 10th December 1881.

Annual  
inspection.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General T. G. Kennedy, Commanding the Frontier Force, on the 16th December 1881.

Order of  
British India.

Subadár-Major Gurbáj Singh was admitted to the 2nd Class of the Order of British India from the 21st October 1881, in recognition of his services during the Afghán Campaign, the decoration being presented to him by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab on a Brigade parade on the 15th December 1881.

Gain and loss  
statement.

Admitted into hospital during the year	...	678
Deaths in hospital	do. ...	4
Deaths out of hospital	do. ...	18
Sent on sick leave	do. ...	30

Discharged.	{	At own request	...	...	18
		By Quarterly Medical Committee	...	...	15
		Pensioned	...	...	23
		Unlikely recruits	...	...	24
		Other causes	...	...	7
		Transferred to Andaman Police	...	...	25
					<hr/>
		Total	...	...	112

Enlisted during the year	...	...	29
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In G. G. O. No. 64 of 10th February 1882, Lieutenant R. G. Egerton, Officiating Wing Subaltern, was transferred to the Corps of Guides, and Lieutenant H. S. P. Davies, of the Cheshire Regiment, was appointed to officiate as Wing Officer.

On the 26th October Colonel J. J. Boswell, C.B., rejoined from furlough to England and resumed command of the regiment.

Admitted into hospital during the year	...	1,558	Gain and loss statement.
Ditto detachment hospital	...	5	
	Total	...	1,563
Deaths in hospital at head-quarters	...	...	14
Ditto on detachment	...	...	1
Ditto out of hospital	...	...	2
	Total	...	17
Sent on sick leave during the year	...	...	30
Discharged {	At own request	...	56
	By Quarterly Medical Committee	...	19
	Pensioned	...	25
	Unlikely recruits	...	17
	Other causes	...	11
	Total	...	128
Enlisted during the year	...	...	213

By G. G. O. No. 210, dated 22nd April 1882, the strength of the regiment, in common with the rest of the Native Army, was raised to a strength of 90 sepoy per company, and one British officer was added to the strength of the regiment, thus making a complement of 9 British officers and 832 of all native ranks.

By Punjab Frontier Force Standing Order No. 9 of 17th November 1882, the company of Patháns of mixed castes was ordered to be gradually done away with, and a company composed entirely of Afrídís raised in its place.



1883.  
Establish-  
ment.

In continuation of the above order, and under the authority of Assistant Adjutant-General's No. 51, dated 6th January 1883, the establishment of the regiment was further changed, one half-company of Punjabi Mahomedans being replaced by a similar number of Trans-Indus Patháns, making the future constitution of the regiment as follows :—

Sikhs	...	...	2	companies.
Dogras	...	...	3	do.
Punjabi Mahomedans	...	...	1½	do.
Trans-Indus Patháns	...	...	½	company.
Afrídís	...	...	1	do.
Total			8	companies.

Inspection.

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General T. G. Kennedy, C.B., Commanding the Punjab Frontier Force, on the 18th January 1883.

Sickness.

During the cold season of 1882-83 the regiment may be said to have passed through a severe epidemic of pneumonia. One of the predisposing causes, if not the main one, was the overcrowding in the lines, the present accommodation being scarcely sufficient for 600 men, whereas the strength of the regiment is 832 men.

Desertion.

In February a Jowáki Afrídi, by name Gulsain-ud-dín, who was sentry over a Pathán prisoner sick in hospital, deserted, at the same time allowing the prisoner to escape; the two men carrying off all four rifles belonging to the guard. Three of the rifles were subsequently recovered by the Political Officer of the Khyber on information received from a Native officer of the 1st Punjab Infantry. Gulsain-ud-dín was apprehended on 12th June 1883, tried by a General Court-Martial held at Abbottabad on 16th July 1883, and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.

Appointment.

By G. G. O. No. 141 of 16th March 1883 Lieutenant H. S. P. Davies was transferred to the Civil Department.

In March the transport of the regiment was increased by an addition of 26 mules, the camels being reduced from 55 to 48.

Transport.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Pratt, 2nd-in-Command, was granted furlough to England by G. G. O. No. 167 of 30th March, and availed himself of it on 15th April 1883.

Leave.

Lieutenant F. Jermyn, of the Royal Irish Regiment, was appointed Wing Officer (officiating), on probation, by G. G. O. No. 370 of 29th June 1883.

Appointment.

Lieutenant C. G. Fasken, Adjutant, was granted furlough by G. G. O. No. 578 of 2nd November 1883, and left Kohát on the 23rd November 1883, Lieutenant F. C. Dunlop being appointed to officiate for him.

Leave.

Admitted into hospital during the year		...	865	Gain and loss statement.
Ditto detachment hospital do.		...	5	
Total		...	870	
Deaths in hospital at head-quarters		...	13	
Ditto on detachment		...	0	
Ditto out of hospital		...	3	
Total		...	16	
Discharges.	{ At own request	...	29	
	{ By Quarterly Medical Committee	...	10	
	{ Pensioned	...	20	
	{ Unlikely recruits	...	17	
	{ Other causes	...	9	
Total		...	85	
Enlisted during the year		...	120	

The regiment marched from Kohát on the 24th February 1884, arriving at Abbottabad on the 9th March.

1884.  
March to  
Abbottabad.

Colonel Boswell vacates command.

Colonel J. J. Boswell, c.B., vacated the command of the regiment, under the operation of G. G. O. No. 209 of 1882 and G. G. O. No. 224 of 1884, on the 31st March.

Farewell order by Colone. BOSWELL.

Farewell order by Colonel Boswell.

"Colonel J. J. Boswell, c.B., Commandant of the regiment, being about to vacate the command, under the operation of G. G. O. No. 209 of 1882, begs to bid farewell to the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the regiment he has been privileged to command for nearly ten years.

"He thanks all ranks for their invariable good behaviour since he has had the honor of commanding them, and would now place on record that he has served in no regiment where he has evidenced such invariable steady discipline and good behaviour, both in cantonments and in the field, whereby the regiment has earned for itself a character second to none in the Force.

"He will ever look back on the time he has spent with the regiment as the brightest and pleasantest in his service, and wishes the regiment a prosperous and brilliant career in the future."

Lieut.-Colonel Pratt appointed Commandant.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Pratt rejoined from furlough to Europe on 2nd April 1884, and was appointed Commandant of the regiment, with effect from 1st April 1884, by G. G. O. No. 224 of 1884.

Appointment.

Major J. B. Slater was promoted to 2nd-in-Command, *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt, and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Hastings appointed Wing Commander, *vice* Major Slater.

Inspection

The regiment was inspected by Brigadier-General T. G. Kennedy, c.B., Commanding the Punjab Frontier Force, on the 5th April and succeeding days.

Retirement of Major Slater.

Major J. B. Slater applied for permission to retire from the service, and left the regiment on the 30th April 1884 (G. G. O. No. 232 of 1884).

Farewell order to Major SLATER.

Farewell order to Major Slater.

"The Commanding Officer, in publishing the above order, expresses the great grief experienced by himself and all ranks of the regiment, both British and Native, at losing an officer who has served 22 years

with the regiment, and has acquired the universal esteem and respect of all ranks during that period.

“Major J. B. Slater is now compelled to retire from the effects of a serious wound received at the battle of Kandahár on the 1st September 1880, whilst gallantly leading his men in action, and the Commanding Officer expresses the sincere wishes of all ranks for the future welfare of Major Slater, with hopes that he may recover his health speedily and enjoy his well-earned retirement in his own country.”

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Hastings was promoted Appointments. to 2nd-in-Command, *vice* Major Slater, and Major W. O. Thompson was appointed Wing Commander, *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel Hastings, from 1st May 1884.

Lieutenant E. B. Harrison, Royal Irish Fusiliers, joined the regiment as Officiating Wing Officer on the 13th May 1884.

Lieutenant C. G. M. Fasken, Adjutant, rejoined from Return from furlough. furlough to England on the 19th December 1884.

The constitution of the regiment was again modified by Establishment revised. Government of India letter No. 719 E., dated 23rd December 1884, the company of Afridís being replaced by one of Trans-Indus (Cis-Border) Mahomedans, making the constitution as under :—

- 2 Companies Punjabi Mahomedans.
- 1 Company Trans-Indus ditto.
- 3 Companies Dogras.
- 2 Ditto Sikhs.

The letter accompanying the order for introducing the revised constitution laid down that the change was to be made with great caution, being introduced very gradually.

In the early part of the year the system of puckalis having private mules was done away with, mules for puckals being always for the future supplied from the regimental transport establishment. General remarks.



During the entire year, from the beginning of May, the Agror frontier was more or less disturbed by incursions of trans-border men who had private feuds with the Khan of Agror's party within our border. The troops were harassed a great deal by being continually ordered out to reinforce the garrison at Oghi, the strength of which had been raised to 100 rifles instead of 50 rifles, the ordinary strength.

The increased garrison was not reduced until the passes of the Black Mountain became blocked with snow in January 1885. The raiders never attempted to withstand the advance of the troops.

On the 13th September a party of 70 men of the regiment were engaged with the enemy, who, to the number of 2,000 men, had raided into the Agror valley and burned some villages.

The troops, consisting of 70 men as above and an equal number of the 5th Goorkhas, the whole commanded by Lieutenant Barrett, 5th Goorkhas, advanced against the enemy, who fled, pursued by the troops, after two volleys had been fired. The troops pursued for a considerable distance, but the enemy never attempted to make a stand.

During these disturbances no action was taken by the Civil authorities to make reprisals or to punish the villages beyond our border through which, and by the connivance of whose inhabitants, the enemy must have approached our border villages. The Khan of Agror also complained that he was not allowed to make reprisals.

Gain and loss  
statement.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	477
Deaths in hospital	...	3
Ditto out of hospital	...	5
Total		8

Discharges	{ At own request...	...	...	20
	{ By Invaliding Committee	...	...	19
	{ Unlikely recruits	...	...	9
	{ Other causes	...	...	19
Total				67
Enlisted during the year				68

Cooking pots for the regiment of a uniform pattern were made up at a cost of Rs. 1,080.

1885.  
Cooking pots.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Pratt promoted to Brevet Colonel on the 2nd March 1885.

British  
Officers.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Hastings promoted to Brevet Colonel on the 7th March 1885.

Major and Brevet Colonel F. E. Hastings to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 10th December 1885.

Lieutenant C. G. M. Fasken to be Captain, 13th June 1885.

On the promotion of Captain Fasken, Lieutenant F. C. Dunlop was appointed Adjutant, 13th June 1885.

Adjutant.

Lieutenant Ivor Philipps, Manchester Regiment, joined the regiment as Wing Officer, on probation, on 19th September 1885.

British  
Officers.

Lieutenant E. B. Harrison left the regiment on the 1st August 1885 on medical certificate for Europe.

Twenty supernumeraries in the ranks were authorized to be entertained, nominally to replace men discharged by the Annual Invaliding Committee.

Twenty  
supernumer-  
aries autho-  
rized.

Inspection.

The regiment was inspected by the Brigadier-General Commanding the Force on 13th April.

Gain and loss statement.

Admissions into hospital during the year	...	...	375
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Deaths in hospital ...	...	...	5
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Ditto out of hospital	...	...	1
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Total	..	...	6
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Discharges	{	At own request	...	...	32
		By Invaliding Committee	...	...	25
		Unlikely recruits	...	...	16
		Other causes	...	...	9

Total	...	...	82
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Enlisted during the year	...	...	114
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1886.  
Furlough.

Lieutenant G. W. B. Swiney proceeded on furlough (private affairs) for one year on 3rd April. Lieutenant T. Jermyn officiates as Quartermaster *vice* Lieutenant Swiney.

Inspection.

Colonel W. C. Chowne, temporary, Commanding the Punjab Frontier Force, inspected the regiment on the 9th April.

Appointments.

On the 31st July Lieutenant Ivor Philipps was struck off the strength of the regiment, he having been appointed Officiating Wing Officer, on probation, 5th Goorkhas.

On the 2nd September Surgeon J. Nelis, M.B., was transferred from the regiment to the permanent medical charge of the 5th Goorkhas. Surgeon Nelis' service with the regiment is 6 years and 11 months.

Volunteers for  
Burma Military Police.

Volunteers for the newly raised Military Police in Burma were called for in G. O. C. C. Accordingly on 13th September the following number of men were transferred for service in Burma :—

2 Havildárs as Jemadárs.

4 Lance Naicks as Naicks.

36 Sepoys as sepoy.

It is worthy of note that Sikhs were ready to volunteer in any number, far more so than any other class of men in the regiment. Some Dogras also volunteered. Patháns and Punjabi Mahomedans evinced no desire to do so.

The musketry figures of merit of the regiment for the season of 1885-86 was 128·94. In the return published in G. O. C. C. showing the results of the annual course of the Native Armies serving in the Bengal Presidency for the season 1885-86, out of the total number of 53 Infantry regiments shown in the return, the regiment stood eighth, and out of the number of Infantry regiments in the Punjab Force second on the list.

Musketry.

In Adjutant-General of India's letter No. 4059 B., dated 15th September 1886, Surgeon J. W. Rodgers, I.M.D., is, on closing of the Sheikh Budin sanitarium, transferred to the permanent medical charge of the regiment, *vice* Surgeon J. Nelis, transferred to the 5th Goorkhas.

Appointments.

Lieutenant E. B. Harrison is struck off the strength of the regiment from 1st November, and directed to rejoin his regiment, the 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Brigadier-General J. W. Mc Queen, C.B., A.-D.-C., Commanding the Punjab Frontier Force, inspected the regiment on the 23rd November.

Inspection.

India Army Circular, dated 13th October 1886, is published, establishing rules regarding the formation of active and garrison reserves, and granting good conduct pay to all ranks at more advantageous rates than heretofore.

Formation of reserve and increased good conduct pay.

The regiment marched from Abbottabad on the 27th November, and reached Ráwalpindi on the 1st December, to join the Camp of Exercise at that station.

March to Rawalpindi.



**Inspection.** The regiment was inspected on the line of march, three miles out of Ráwalpindi, on the 1st December, and again at the Regimental Camp on the 2nd December by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Commanding the Ráwalpindi Division.

**Furlough.** Major W. O. Thompson reported his departure on furlough to Europe on 3rd December.

**Appointment.** Captain Fasken officiates as Wing Commander *vice* Major Thompson.

Gain and loss statement.	Admissions into hospital during the year	...	405		
			---		
	Deaths in hospital	...	4		
	Do. out of hospital	...	1		
			---		
		Total	...	5	
				---	
	Discharges ...	{	At own request	...	21
By Invaliding Committee			...	29	
As unlikely recruits			...	11	
Other causes			...	46	
					---
			Total	...	107
					---
	Enlisted during the year	...	104		
					---



